

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH, EDITOR

TUESDAY : : : : AUGUST 9

BEFORE PORT ARTHUR.

If the Japanese have, as reported, taken positions located less than a mile and three-fifths from the main defenses of Port Arthur, they have gained a strong vantage ground for siege guns. These main defenses are immediately around the port on high hills, Takushan, the principal fortress, being three and a half miles from the inner harbor and some of the others as much as eight miles. If we place the Japanese positions ten miles from the port, which would seem to be about right, the city could be made untenable by Oyam's heavy artillery providing the besiegers were not themselves dislodged by sorties or by the return fire of the Russian forts. Modern siege artillery has a great range, a gun recently tested at Sandy Hook sending a shell twenty-one miles. Mortars do not carry so far, but they could be used with tremendous effect on the forts nearest to the Japanese lines and perhaps upon those close to the city.

Having been the masters of Port Arthur for about eight months the Japanese know precisely where to plant their missiles. The direction and distance to the docks and anchorage from where the besiegers are now, was marked down years ago with a view to the emergency which has now come. There is no need of random firing. Furthermore the effect of shots may be observed from war balloons and reported down the telephone. All this accounts for the belief of the Japanese that they can drive the Russian fleet out of port and compel it to do battle with Togo.

It may be fairly assumed that the Japanese will give Port Arthur a heavy bombardment and then will assault the forts with an enormous force, line following line as was the case at Nanshan Hill. The Japanese are given to grand assaults, having captured Port Arthur that way ten years ago. That they do not spare themselves at such times is shown by the story of Nanshan Hill, a place as strongly fortified as the majority of the elevations on the inner lines of the Russian defensive system.

INCUBATED INCREASE.

The doctrine of the survival of the fittest, with its correlative of letting the unfit die without restriction, is getting hard knocks from the infant incubator industry. From New York under date of August 1 this item comes:

"Graduates of the infant incubator have held a reunion at the Infant Incubator Institute at Coney Island. There were about forty present, ranging in age from three months, the usual period allowed them in the incubator, to three years. In the case of the latter there were three from Brooklyn, triplets whose lives had been saved at the incubator exhibit during the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo in 1901, and who are now as healthy as any youngsters of their age. In the list of incubator babies now at Coney Island are three sets of twins and one of triplets, also a girl that at birth, sixteen days ago, weighed one pound eight ounces, and measured twelve inches."

With such exhibits the cold philosophy that would treat all infants not of the "bouncing" standard as not worth their nurturing should be silenced. The story was told in print many years ago of a babe that was born in the Eastern States somewhere, whose first breathings seemed but its flickering last ones and whose bulk could have been concealed in a quart measure. It was laid aside as being already done with life, but a kind-hearted old granny noticed signs of vitality in the little form and carefully cherished the mite of humanity. It was a boy, who was reared to become the father of the wonderfully intellectual Beecher family. Future Roosevelts and Parkers may be saved to the nation and the world by the incubator.

Dr. Monsarrat's statement that cattle on the Dix did not have Texas fever but did have ticks, is not convincing to people who know anything about the matter. The ticks are the things that spread the fever and the use of tons of disinfectants among the transport's cattle—all of which livestock came from infected districts—shows how the veterinarians aboard looked at the tick question. It strikes the Advertiser that the island had a narrow escape in this affair from an epidemic that would have soon put our people on a condensed milk ration.

According to a Christiana dispatch of August 1, it was reported that a Norwegian whaler had found north of Spitzbergen a letter from Prof. Andre, dated in 1898. The text of the letter was not disclosed. Should the report prove true, the letter would be the first and only definite intelligence received from the intrepid explorer since he rose in his balloon at Spitzbergen and sailed by the sky route for the North Pole on July 11, 1897.

THE CHEERFUL SIDE.

Sugar is steadily rising above four cents having reached a quotation of 4.125. Every fractional point added means tens of thousands of dollars to Hawaiian values. With sugar going up and the prospect what it is that the Government will expend large sums upon fortifications and a naval station here, the people of Honolulu should take heart for the future. As the Advertiser has said before, there are no actual hard times here as the term is understood elsewhere. In San Francisco during the Cleveland depression, the streets swarmed with beggars, five-cent eating houses and free soup-kitchens were established and a relief bureau, opened by one of the newspapers, with branches in various parts of the city, had 17,000 applicants in one day. It became necessary to build unnecessary public works like the Dewey boulevard, to keep idle labor from turning itself into a mob. Those were times which make the existing state of things in Honolulu look like the high tide of prosperity.

Hard times in Southern California, after the boom, fell upon a country with no assets but tourists and not many of them. Little fruit was being raised and the few ships that called with coal and lumber at San Pedro and San Diego went away with rock and sand ballast. The surface view of things affected one like a nightmare. Foreclosures, failures of banks, defalcations, suicides and attachments of property filled the newspapers. There is nothing here to suggest such a calamity. Indeed we are selling about \$20,000,000 of our products this year and have lively expectations of Federal aid in the form of outlays, covering a period of years, for public works. What we are enduring are the vicissitudes of retrenchment. We are getting over the boom. Our losses are largely in paper values. By a little stern economy Honolulu ought to get on a solid basis before long. She has the capital, in her marketable values, to come out all right.

RUSSIA'S HEARTBEATS.

One of the most evident results of the Russo-Japanese war, and which may prove among the most momentous in historical bearing, is the political stirring up it is producing in Russia. Censorship would appear to be paralyzed for the moment, as if the Czar's government were overawed with the heavy throbings of the nation's heart. A St. Petersburg dispatch of August 1 says:

"The suggestion of M. Souvorin, editor of the Novoe Vremya, regarding the establishment of a responsible cabinet is creating much popular comment. Great significance attaches to the freedom with which the newspapers are discussing the matter. The cry has been taken up by the reactionary Prince Meshchersky, editor of the Grazhdanin, who argues that a cabinet has become necessary."

"M. Souvorin this morning returns to the charge in a signed article pointing out the evils of the present system and saying that the rivalry between the ministers is causing chaos in the public service, each pulling its own way, secure from criticism under the cloak of personal irresponsibility."

"Continuing, M. Souvorin says: 'Peter the Great opened the window toward Europe, now we need to open the door and let what is best of western progress enter.' M. Souvorin also recalls the words of Alexander II: 'Reforms must come from above.'"

"The introduction of ministerial responsibility necessarily will involve the greatest importance being vested in the office of ministerial councillor, now an empty honor to which M. Witte was relegated. He would then become the most influential man under the Emperor. The creation of a responsible ministry would also necessarily involve more freedom of the press and more criticism."

Of course Hilo ought to raise its own forage. There are people keeping cows in the suburbs of Honolulu who do that, raising a balanced ration for their stock of sorghum, alfalfa, panicum grass and pasture grass, with klawe beans thrown in. The cows are fat and healthy and give fine milk. No store feed is bought except during periods of unusual drought.

Wasn't a large sum raised for a McKinley memorial park which might be used to help out present park projects? What about that money?

Hilo has been given the convention and promises good accommodations for all who attend it.

CHANGE OF WATER often brings on diarrhoea. For this reason many experienced travelers carry a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy with them to be used in case of an emergency. This preparation has no equal as a cure for bowel complaints. It can not be obtained while on board the cars or steamship, and that is where it is most likely to be needed. Buy a bottle before leaving home. Sold by Benson, Smith & Co., Wholesale Agents.

PHOTOGRAPH THE BAND

Picture Will Be Taken At Beach On Sunday.

Acting Governor Atkinson has received a formal request from the Hawaii Promotion Committee to have the Government Band play at the Hotel Annex Sunday afternoon in order to bring a crowd at that point and to the Young Hotel Annex, the Moana Hotel, Waikiki Inn and other places along the beach, so that Photographer Rice of Rice & Perkins may obtain a picture of Waikiki Beach with plenty of life in it.

While the photograph taken two weeks ago was a success in that it showed the beautiful photographic possibilities of the beach and vicinity, yet there were not enough people in view in proportion to the long sweep of the beach from the Annex to Diamond Head to make it really typical of a festive seashore scene in Honolulu.

With the band playing on the beach there should be a large crowd of people present at the various resorts mentioned and if the day is fine it is hoped also that as many persons as possible will avail themselves of the opportunity to go in bathing. It is such a picture that the Promotion Committee is desirous of taking, for the demand in eastern cities for advertising matter on Hawaii is for a seaside picture showing plenty of "life."

The Promotion Committee has also appealed to yachtsmen and owners of canoes to make an aquatic demonstration at the same time. Pictures of Waikiki beach showing Hawaiian canoes racing on the crest of waves toward the beach are always attractive to mainlanders and has always proven so to tourists.

The committee has met with some success in this respect and the prospects are good for an aquatic exhibition which will show up well in the photograph. On this occasion a number of young Hawaiians and haoles who are adept at riding standing on surf boards, will be taken in this daring act.

Monday Pillow Tops on Sale

Girls who like to do fancy work should lay in a supply of pretty pillow tops while prices are down to about one half.

Other girls who like pretty pillows, without the work, have the same chance in art pillow tops that need only to be stuffed.

\$1.25 pillow tops at 75c
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Catarrh is a constitutional disease, originating in impure blood, and requires a constitutional remedy.

"I suffered from catarrh in the head and loss of appetite and sleep. My blood was thin and I felt bad all over most of the time. I decided to try Hood's Sarsaparilla and now have no symptoms of catarrh. I have a good appetite, and sleep well. I heartily recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla to all my friends." R. Long, California Junction, Iowa.

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